

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action the claims were rejected as being anticipated by the cited Masuyama patent or obvious in view of various combinations of the references including the Masuyama, Hamasaki, and Suzuki references. In response, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1, 2 and 4 and have submitted new independent Claim 28. Claim 28 is directed to an image pickup apparatus having a driving signal for driving a transfer switch to transfer a photocarrier into an input unit of an amplifier, and using the amplified carrier as an image signal without sweeping away the carrier. In the disclosure of the primary rejecting reference, the Masuyama patent, has described in Column 12, lines 5-14, a reset signal RS_i and a transfer signal TR_i which are biased positively (by an intermediate level) as shown in Fig. 16, thereby sweeping away the (excess) carrier as distinguished from Applicants' invention as set forth in new Claim 28.

Accordingly, in the present invention, "the third signal is supplied to the transfer switch after termination of a carrier storage period in the photoelectric conversion unit, during a period of a transition from the second signal into the first signal, and while the reset element is in an OFF state". The other cited references do not disclose or suggest the above-characterized feature of the present invention.

In addition, Applicants believe that switching requirements of the other pending independent claims, and their dependent claims, render such claims to be patentable for reasons similar to those set forth above.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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